

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printer comprising:

a main body;

a printer unit fixed to the main body, the printer unit having a

5 first cover and a second cover, the second cover being attached to the main body, the first cover being fixed to the second cover with a hinge such that the first cover rotates freely along the hinge, wherein a hollow space is created between the first cover and the second cover when the first cover is closed against the second cover, the hollow space being  
10 suitable for loading a printing paper having a printable surface and a non-printable surface into the space between the first cover and the second cover, the non-printable surface of the printing paper having at least one mark;

a mark detecting unit provided in the first cover and that detects  
15 the mark on the non-printable surface of the printing paper;

a first contact member provided in the first cover;

a second contact member provided in the second cover that makes physical contact with the first contact member when the first cover is closed over the second cover; and

20 a control unit provided in the main body and that is electrically connected to the mark detection unit through the first and the second contact members and that controls various operations of the printer.

2. The printer according to claim 1, wherein the first contact unit and the second contact unit have a construction such that the contact units fit into each other.
- 5 3. The printer according to claim 2, wherein the first contact unit or the second unit has a construction such that that particular contact unit can hold the other contact unit.
4. The printer according to claims 1, further comprising:  
10 a platen roller provided in the first cover; and  
a printing head provided in the main body.
5. The printer according to claim 1, further comprising a third contact unit that connects the second contact unit and the control unit.  
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6. The printer according to claim 1, wherein the control unit controls a position of the printing paper based on the detection of the mark in the mark detecting unit.
- 20 7. The printer according to claim 1, wherein the control unit detects a presence or an absence of the printing paper based on the detection of the mark in the mark detecting unit.

8. The printer according to claim 1, further comprising a locking member that is located on the first cover, wherein the locking member locks the first cover and the second cover and is electrically connected to the first contact unit.

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9. The printer according to claim 1, wherein the second cover is detachably attached to the main body.

10. The printer according to claim 1, wherein the first contact member and the second contact member are made of electrically conducting material.

11. The printer according to claim 1, further comprising a printing head provided in the second cover.

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12. The printer according to claim 1, wherein the printing head is a thermal head.

13. The printer according to claim 1, wherein the non-printable surface of the printing paper has a plurality of marks, and  
the control unit instructs to start the printing when the mark detecting unit detects a mark and, the control unit instructs to stop the printing when the mark detecting unit detects another mark.